

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE THE BIBLE? BECAUSE IT TELLS ME THAT JESUS LOVES ME (Part Two)

Barry M. Grider

This writer never thinks of the love of Christ without thinking of the cross. Consider that the cross points heavenward, toward the beating heart of God, reminding us of the height of the love of Christ, "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6,7). Consider that the cross was driven deep into the ground, reminding us of the depth of Christ's love, who "brought me [us] out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay..." (Psm. 40:2). No man is so wicked that the grace of God cannot reach him. Consider that the cross stretches outward on both sides reminding us of the length of Christ's love. Concerning His disciples, "He loved them unto the end" (John 13:1). He loved them unto the nth degree. He could not have loved them anymore than He did. Consider that the cross open its arms to the world, reminding us of the breadth of the love of Christ. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Love sent my Savior to die in my stead -
Why should He love me so?
Meekly to Calvary's cross He was led—
Why should He love me so?

Robert Harkness

Jesus Loves Even Me

Another sweet song our family loves to sing contains the following lyrics:

I am so glad that our Father in heav'n
Tells of His love in the Book He has given,
Wonderful things in the Bible I see
This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me.

O if there's only one song I can sing,
When in His beauty I see the Great King,
This shall my song in eternity be:
"O, what a wonder that Jesus loves me."

[Chorus]

I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me;
I am so glad that Jesus loves me,
Jesus loves even me.

P.P. Bliss

Though I cannot fully comprehend or appreciate His love, and though I do not deserve it – Jesus loves even Me!

Jesus Loves Even Me—The Created One!

When God completed His creation, He looked upon the work of His hand and “beheld it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). This statement includes the creation of man. In fact, every thing else created was intended for man’s enjoyment. He was given dominion over the creation (Gen. 1:28). Man was not made just a little above the beasts, but a little lower than the angels (Heb. 2:7). Who spoke the universe into existence? The second person of the Godhead, Jesus the Christ, did so. “For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominion, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him” (Col. 1:16). Certain blessings come to man as a result of our being part of His creation. “...For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt. 5:45). His creation testifies to His goodness and ought to impress all of humanity. “For the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork” (Psm. 19:1). Yet, if all of mankind raised their fists in rebellion to God and snub the cross of His Son (and most have done so), heaven still responds with a resounding—“I love you.”

Jesus Loves Even Me—The Innocent One!

Children are gifts from God (Psm. 127:3). The spirit of man comes from God (Zech. 12:1) and therefore children are born pure and innocent. Down through the centuries tyrants such as Pharaoh and Herod have committed atrocities against the little children. Even in America, the most innocent among us are often abandoned, abused, or aborted. Yet, little children have a true friend in Jesus.

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. And whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea (Matt. 18:1-6).

Yes, children would find comfort and care when

sitting on the knee of Jesus with His arms wrapped around them. Parents ought always to be aware of their actions or reactions toward their children and consider the watchful eye of Jesus. Preacher, do not dismiss that little one tugging on your pants leg for your attention. Red, yellow, black, or white, children are precious in Jesus’ sight.

Jesus Loves Even Me-- The Sinner!

Those who have little understanding of Jesus’ mission, perhaps have come to the erroneous conclusion that Jesus came to condemn the sinner instead of seeking the sinner. Of course, it is not Jesus who condemns, but, rather, sin is what condemns. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). “For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:17). On one occasion Jesus’ enemies brought a woman to him who was taken in the very act of adultery. Jesus knew their evil hearts and why they had brought the woman to Him. Remember His response? “...He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her” (John 8:7). It was not that Jesus excused her sin, but, rather, he showed abounding mercy toward the woman, because He loved her. He said, “...Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more” (John 8:11).

Paul, the apostle, who formerly was Saul the persecutor, stated, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim. 1:15). Jesus died that we might be saved. When the murderous throng cried out to release Barabbas and to crucify Jesus, Barabbas was not the only one who walked away free. Every one of us was allowed to walk away free as the innocent one willingly laid down His life for us, paying our penalty for sin. Paul records, “For he [God] hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). Remember Isaiah’s words about the suffering servant of God in Isaiah 53.

“**He** hath borne **our** griefs” (v.4)

He “carried **our** sorrows” (v.4)

He was “stricken”, “smitten,” and “afflicted” (v.4)

“**He** was wounded for **our** transgressions” (v.5)

“**He** was bruised for **our** iniquities.” (v.5)

“The chastisement or **our** peace was upon **him**” (v.5)

“With **his** stripes **we** are healed.” (v.5)

“The Lord hath laid on **him** the iniquity of us **all**.” (v.6)

“**He** was oppressed” for **us**. (v.7)

“**He** was afflicted” for **us**. (v.7)

“**He** is brought as a lamb to the slaughter” for **us**. (v.7)

(To be continued.)

